

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66609

DRAFTED BY: NEA/PAB:RAPECK

APPROVED BY: NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

----- 046608

R 022120Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 000547

FOLLOWING REPEAT USNATO 6957 ACTION SECSTATE SECDEF INFO
OTTAWA PARIS MAAG BONN MAAG NETHERLANDS MAAG ROME
CNO NAVAIRSYSCOM OFF OF NAVAL RESEARCH LONDON BRNCH OFF
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6957

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ESTC, NATO

SUBJECT: REPORT OF DECEMBER 12, 1974 MEETING OF NATO MARITIME

PATROL AIRCRAFT STEERING COMMITTEE (NMPASC)

SECSTATE FOR EUR/RPM; SECDEF FOR OASD(I&L); CNO FOR OP-098; OP-05,
OP-506D; NAVAIRSYSCOM FOR PMO-240.

REF: A. USNATO 5616

B. STATE 241622(929395Z NOV 74)(NOTAL)

C. STATE 165361/1970(072139Z OCT 70)(NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS OF NMPASC
MEETING IN PARIS DEC 12, 1974:

(1) NMPASC REPORT TO CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS
(CNAD) ON FRG/France/ROLLS-ROYCE CONTRACT DISPUTE.

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(2) FRENCH SALE OF ATLANTIC TO PAKISTAN.

(3) FRANCE ASSUMES CHAIRMANSHIP OF NMPASC. END SUMMARY.

1. THE NMPASC MET IN PARIS ON DECEMBER 12, 1974. REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL MEMBER NATIONS (BELGIUM, FRANCE, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

ITALY, AND THE NETHERLANDS AND US) ATTENDED ESCEPT BELGIUM. CAPTIAN CHISUM (USNATO) WAS CHAIRMAN AND US REPRESENTATIVE. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO US FOLLOW.

2. NMPASC REPORT TO CNAD ON FRENCH/FRG/ROLLS-ROYCE CONTRACT DISPUTE (REFERENCE A., PARAGRAPH 3.):

A. THE BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE (AVAERT) WHO VOLUNTEERED AT THE JULY 11, 1974 NMPASC MEETING TO DRAFT A REPORT FROM NMPASC TO CNAD ABOUT THIS CONTRACT DISPUTE, WAS ABSENT. THE NMPASC SECRETARY (WOIRIN) AGREED TO CONTACT THE BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE AND TO URGE HIM TO SUBMIT THE DRAFT REPORT FOR APPROVAL AT THE FEBRUARY 13, 1975 MEETING OF NMPASC FOR SUBMISSION TO THE CNAD MEMBERS BEFORE THE APRIL 22, 1975 CNAD MEETING.

3. ATLANTIC SALES TO THIRD COUNTRIES (REFERENCE A., PARAGRAPH4):

A. AT THE OCTOBER 1974 NMPASC MEETING THE ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE (GENERAL F. FERRI) EXPRESSED ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CONCERN ABOUT FRENCH SALE OF ATLANTIC AIRCRAFT TO PAKISTAN AND PROMISED TO PROVIDE A WRITTEN STATEMENT. THIS STATEMENT FOLLOWS. QUOTE:

A. FIRST OF A

L., ON THE ITALIAN SIDE, IT IS FELT THAT THE SALE OF THREE ATLANTIC AIRCRAFT TO PAKISTAN SHOULD HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND ALSO BEEN GIVEN THE APPROVAL OF THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THEY WERE NATO AIRCRAFT (WITH ALL THE RELEVANT INFORMATION) SOLD TO A NON-NATO COUNTRY (MC-167, DATED 19TH MAY, 1970, AND C-M(71)26, DATED 14TH APRIL, 1971).

B. THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN FRANCE AND PAKISTAN APPEARS TO BE IN CONTRADICTION WITH CONSORTIUM PRINCIPLES AND CONFIDENTIAL

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CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS A PURELY NATIONAL AGREEMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(1) THE ATLANTIC AIRCRAFT (AND THE RELATED INFORMATION) AS A CONCEPT AND PROJECT, IS THE PROPERTY OF THE ATLANTIC CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES (NOT THE AIRCRAFT PHYSICALLY). FOR THAT REASON, AS WAS DONE FOR THE US JEZEBEL SYSTEM, THE OPINION OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD HAVE BEEN SOUGHT BEFORE THE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED. THERE

WOULD THEN HAVE BEEN A COUNTRY BY COUNTRY EVALUATION OF THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL ASPECTS FOLLOWED BY A JOINT DECISION. ITALY DOES NOT OBJECT TO SELLING THE ATLANTIC AIRCRAFT AS AN AIRFRAMCE, BUT HAS RESERVATIONS TO MAKE CONCERNING SOME ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT. THIS MATTER IS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES AND, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, A LIST OF SUCH EQUIPMENT WILL BE FORWARDED. IT MUST ALSO BE BORNE IN MIND THAT FOR ITALY THE ATLANTIC AIRCRAFT IS STILL THE MOST UP-TO-DATE MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT AND THAT THE VALUE ATTACHED TO A GIVEN ITEM OF EQUIPMENT MAY THEREFORE BE HIGHER THAN IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE, OR ARE ABOUT TO HAVE, SECOND OR THIRD GENERATION EQUIPMENT.

(2) FROM THE INDUSTRIAL POINT OF VIEW, AND CONSIDERING THAT PAKISTAN WOULD NOT IN ANY CASE HAVE BOUGHT NEW AIRCRAFT, THE QUESTION OF PREJUDICE CAUSED TO THE OTHER CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES AS A RESULT OF THE SALE OF SECOND-HAND AIRCRAFT DOES NOT ARISE;

(3) IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER PAKISTAN WILL JOIN THE ATLANTIC CONSORTIUM OR WHETHER THE LOGISTIC SUPPORT WILL BE PROVIDED THROUGH THE INTERMEDIARY OF FRANCE. IN THE LATTER CASE, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE

INTRODUCTION OF AN ABNORMALLY HIGH CONSUMPTION RATE, DUE TO PAKISTAN'S INFERIOR TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES, COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE EFFICIENT RUNNING OF THE LOGISTIC SUPPORT SYSTEM. IT IS THEREFORE REQUESTED THAT THIS PROBLEM BE EXAMINED IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF THE OTHER CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES. UNQUOTE.

B. THE US REPRESENTATIVE MADE BRIEF COMMENT, REFLECTING GUIDANCE ON REFERENCE B, ON APPROVED US EQUIPMENT IN ATLANTIC SOLD TO PAKISTAN AND ON FUTURE THIRD-PARTY SALES.

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C. FRG AND THE NETHERLANDS REMAINED SILENT, BUT WHEN QUERIED BY CHAIRMAN AGREED TO TADLE NATIONAL POSITIONS ON THIRD-COUNTRY ATLANTIC SALES IN GENERAL AND ON FRENCH SALE OF THREE ATLANTIC TO PAKISTAN IN PARTICULAR, AT THE FEB 13, 1975 NMPASC MEETING.

D. FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE (INGENIEUR EN CHEF VELON) INDICATED TO US REPRESENTATIVE THE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR ARMS SALES, DELEGATION MINISTERIELLE DE L'ARMEMENT, DIRECTION DES AFFAIRES INTERNATIONALES, CONCLUDED THE ATLANTIC SALE TO PAKISTAN WITHOUT HIS (VELON'S) KNOWLEDGE. HE FURTHER EXPRESSED THE TENUOUS THESIS, PROBABLY PUT FORTH BY THE DELEGATION MINISTERIELLE DE L'ARMEMENT, DIRECTION DES AFFAIRES INTERNATIONALES, THAT THE US APPROVAL (REFERENCE C) FOR PAKISTAN: TO PURCHASE PRODUCTION ATLANTIC IN 1970 APPLIES EQUALLY TO THE CURRENT SITUATION. THE

US REPRESENTATIVE POINTED OUT AGAIN THE US REQUIREMENT FOR CASE-BY-CASE CONSIDERATION OF ALL ATLANTIC SALES, ADVANCED THE OPINION THAT THE 1970 US APPROVAL FOR PAKISTAN TO PURCHASE PRODUCTION ATLANTIC DOES NOT NECESSARILY APPLY TO THE CURRENT PAKISTANIAN PURCHASE OF USED ATLANTIC FROM FRENCH NAVAL INVENTORY AND STATED US APPROVAL CONDITIONS FOR CURRENT SALE TO PAKISTAN QUOTED IN PARAGRAPH 2.B. (1) ABOVE.

E. NMPASC MEMBERS INDICATED A DESIRE TO PREVENT FURTHER MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THIRD-COUNTRY SALES BY EXPRESSING CLEARLY PROVISIONS FOR SUCH SALES IN THE FORMAL RECORDS OF THE NMPASC.

MISSION COMMENT: MISSION EXPECTS, THOUGH TI WILL PROBABLY TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THIS PROBLEM, THAT MEMBERS WILL EVENTUALLY AGREE ON PROVISIONS CONSISTENT WITH GUIDANCE OF REFERENCE B, PARAGRAPH 2. END MISSION COMMENT.

3. CHAIRMANSHIP ROTATES.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE NMPASC FRANCE ASSUMED CHAIRMANSHIP. THE NEW CHAIRMAN, FOR THE PERIOD JAN 1 TO JUNE 30, 1975 IS INGENIEUR EN CHUF VELON.

4. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE NMPASC WILL TAKE PLACE IN BRUSSELS ON FEB 13, 1975.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT SALES, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE000547
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/PAB:RAPECK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750003-0001
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750182/aaaactsp.tel
Line Count: 201
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USNATO 5616
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT OF DECEMBER 12, 1974 MEETING OF NATO MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT STEERING COMMITTEE (NMPASC)
TAGS: MASS, ESTC, NATO
To: ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006